



Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program

Helping Washington's low-income and at-risk children and their families

Purpose

The Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) provides funding, technical assistance, and support to 33 local providers throughout the state. These contractors offer comprehensive, family-focused preschool services, designed to help low-income and at-risk children and their families succeed in school and life. ECEAP's target population is three- and four-year-old children who are at or below 110 percent of Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Results and Achievements

From July 2003 to June 2004, ECEAP contractors cumulatively served 6,882 children and families. Statewide highlights include:

- ◆ In a national study of state pre-kindergarten programs, ECEAP scored highest in teaching, adult-child interactions, and classroom quality while serving the poorest children in the study
- ◆ ECEAP children showed significant gains in language and literacy skills between fall and spring assessments, even though scores for four-year-olds in poverty typically show declines
- ◆ Family support staff spent more than 30,000 hours with families to identify strengths, needs, goals, and help families access community resources
- ◆ Community members and ECEAP parents/caretakers contributed over 67,000 volunteer hours
- ◆ Local programs reported leveraging more than \$9.8 million worth of in-kind goods, services, and donations

Fast Facts

- ◆ Children who participate in high quality preschool are more likely to be at grade level in achievement, 50 percent less likely to need special education services, and 25 percent less likely to be held back by the end of third grade.
- ◆ Participants also have lower rates of teen pregnancy, decreased delinquency, higher graduation rates, and higher rates of employment.
- ◆ Studies show for every dollar invested in high quality preschool programs, taxpayers save up to \$7 in future costs.

For More Information

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Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program

Statutory Authority

RCW 28A.215
*Early Childhood Education
Program*

Performance Measures

Provide comprehensive pre-K services so that low-income children are successful in school.

Services

CTED provides funds and technical assistance to 33 ECEAP contractors, serving 36 counties.

ECEAP contractors provide a variety of services for children and families, including:

- ◆ Preschool experiences
- ◆ Nutritious snacks and meals
- ◆ Health screenings
- ◆ Family support in accessing resources and social services
- ◆ Leadership opportunities for parents/caretakers
- ◆ Adult education opportunities, such as English as a Second Language, Adult Basic Education, parenting classes, career counseling, and job skills training.

“ECEAP works! It is an extremely effective model to help children gain the skills they need to be successful in kindergarten and help their parents gain skills to support their child’s education.”

–Dr. Wendy Roedell,
Ph.D.
Assistant Superintendent,
Puget Sound ESD 121,
Burien